OF THE

# Town of Weston,

FOR

### THE YEAR ENDING

March 31, 1867.

BOSTON:
J. M. HEWES, PRINTER, 65 CORNHILL.
1867.

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THE YEAR HADANG

stort in each;

TABLE TABLE

OF THE

# Town of Weston,

FOR

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BOSTON:

J. M. HEWES, PRINTER, 65 CORNHILL.

1867.

# OFFICERS

# THE TOWN OF WESTON, 1867

ALONZO S. FISTE. PRINTER CORRES. ]]

ALONZO S FISKE, LEDVIN HOSES NUTLE.

ALONZO S. FISHE BENEVER I DETROP.

EDWIN HORRS 1 .... SPRING PARKER 2 years

EDMOND H. SEARS, NORTH SMITH, JOHN CORTES.

EDWIN HORRS, ISAAC CORUNN.

NATHAN BASBER, HENRY L BROWN, BENJAMN F. OFTHER

EDWIN HORRS TEAM COUNTRY OF THE COLURN

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTIES AND THE PARTIES A

#### OFFICERS

OF

# THE TOWN OF WESTON, 1867.

Selectmen,

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWARD COBURN, BENJAMIN F. CUTTER.

Assessors,

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWIN HOBBS, NAHUM SMITH.

Overseers of Poor,

ALONZO S. FISKE, BENJAMIN PEIRCE, NATHAN BARKER.

School Committee,

EDWIN HOBBS, 1 year, EDGAR PARKER, 2 years, ISAAC E. COBURN, 3 years.

Library Committee,

EDMOND H. SEARS, NAHUM SMITH, JOHN COBURN.

Trustees of Merriam Fund,

EDWIN HOBBS, ISAAC COBURN, RUFUS BABCOCK.

Constables,

NATHAN BARKER, HENRY L. BROWN, BENJAMIN F. CUTTER.

Burial Ground Committee,

EDWIN HOBBS, ISAAC COBURN, HORACE HEWS.

Town Clerk, GEORGE W. CUTTING, JR.

# Treasurer and Collector, HORACE HEWS.

#### Highway Surveyors,

District No. 1. DAVID PERRY,

" 2. EDWARD E. BROWN,

" " 3. JOHN CARTER,

" 4. ALONZO S. FISKE,

" 5. BENJAMIN F. CUTTER,

" " 6. INCREASE LEADBETTER.

#### Measurers of Wood and Bark,

GEORGE W. CUTTING, GEORGE GARFIELD, EDWARD E. BROWN, WILLIAM H. FLOYD, GEORGE W. DUNN, BENJAMIN F. CUTTER, HORACE LEADBETTER.

#### Surveyors of Lumber,

GEORGE GARFIELD, DANIEL SMITH, WILLIAM H. FLOYD, SAMUEL H. WARREN.

Fence Viewers,

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWIN HOBBS, NAHUM SMITH.

Field Drivers,

NATHAN BARKER, JR., OTIS A. KINGSBURY.

Library Treasurer, HORACE HEWS.

Librarian, JOHN COBURN.

Liquor Agent,
JOEL UPHAM.

Pound Keeper, GEORGE W. CUTTING.

OF THE

# SELECTMEN OF WESTON.

The Selectmen of Weston submit the following Report for the year ending March 4th, 1867, and also their estimate of Expenditures for the ensuing year.

In consequence of unforeseen, and, therefore, unprovided for expenses having arisen, such as State Aid for soldiers and their families, extra road expenses, together with the expense attending the enlargement of the Town Hall, erecting tablets in memory of deceased soldiers, fitting and preparing Library and school-room, &c., the expenditures have somewhat exceeded the amount appropriated at our annual meeting in April last. No part of the town debt has been paid, which, as reported last year, amounted to \$15,200.

Interest paid and orders drawn on the Treasurer, to-		
gether with outstanding bills, amount to	\$13,743	50
To meet these demands, we have Town Grants and		
Corporation Tax,	11,000	00
MALUST SSSL		
Leaving a deficiency to be provided for, of		
From which deduct the amount due from the State,	1,527	50
and the second second		
Which leaves the actual deficiency for the year,	\$1,216	00

From this sum, if we deduct the amount paid for ex-		
tra road expenses, of	700	00
We have the sum of	500	00
as the amount of expenditures exceeding the appropriations for the past year.		

The sums above specified will be varied somewhat by several items on the Treasurer's book, we believe favorably to the town. For the items of expenditure and the exact state of our finances, we refer you to the forthcoming report of the Treasurer.

We congratulate the town upon the state and condition of our public buildings; we believe they are amply sufficient to meet the wants of the town for years to come, and that no farther expenditures on their account will be required only to keep them in repair from time to time.

#### ESTIMATES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

We would recommend for Schools the sam	ne as last		
year,		\$2,000	00
For Highways, to be divided as last year,		1,200	00
For support of the poor, interest and incid	lental ex-		33 *
penses, the Corporation tax, and .	2	2,500	00
Town Debt,	Training .	1,500	00
management of the later of the state of the		#F:000	
		\$7,200	00

### Respectfully submitted by

ALONZO S. FISKE,
INCREASE LEADBETTER,
BENJ. F. CUTTER,

Selectmen

of
Weston.

OF THE

# OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The Overseers of the Poor of Weston submit to the town the following Report of the Receipts and Expenditures and condition of the Almshouse, for the year ending March 4th, 1867.

#### RECEIPTS.

From sale of calves,	\$70	80
" butter, milk, eggs and poultry,	219	00
"hay and straw,	132	61
" pork,	69	90
oats,	37	45
one cow,	80	00
" sundry articles from farm,	17	00
" labor of Superintendent off farm,	36	12
" Board of K. H. Stratford,	33	00
" the Treasury,	710	51
00.002.78	\$1,406	39
EXPENDITURES.		
Paid Henry Wheeler, Superintendent, one year, end-		
	\$275	00
Paid for two cows,	100	50
" meat and fish,	183	84
" pigs,	20	00
" pasturing,	7	87
" shoes, clothing and dry goods,	88	18
" wheelwright's bills, repairs, &c	23	40
" blacksmithing,	23	13
Amount carried forward.	\$721	92

	Amount brought forward,	\$721	92
Paid for float plank	, shingles and lumber, .	. 19	00
" sundry rej	pairs on barn, pump, &c	. 8	40
" horse colla	r and repairs on harness, .	. 7	50
manure,		. 28	88
" coal,		. 45	25
" labor,		. 60	46
	ps and grains,	. 101	10
	r, medical services,	. 13	75
	to Saugus and Charlestown, a	nd	
			80
" hay wagor	body and horse sled,	. 12	00
" farming to	ols, scythes, &c.	. 13	25
" groceries,	Andrew Williams	. 228	08
" sundry ar	ticles and items not enumerat	ed	
			00
	Saugus, assistance rendered C.	A	
	nd family,	. 46	00
	rendered Mrs. Wm. Harrington,	. 25	00
	Overseers,		00
101607	and the property of the state of the		_
		\$1,406	39

The number of inmates at the Almshouse, wholly supported by the town, is six,—the same as last year. Their general health has been good, but the amount of labor they are able to perform is but trifling. The number assisted out of the Almshouse, at the present time, is thirteen. Forty-five individuals have been temporarily relieved the past year, and one has been conveyed to the State Almshouse at Tewksbury.

By an inventory and appraisal made by the Overseers, February 28th, the amount of personal property belonging to the town, connected with the Almshouse, is \$1,885 25.

### Respectfully submitted by

ALONZO S. FISKE,
NATHAN BARKER,
BENJAMIN PEIRCE,
Of
the Poor.

Weston, March 4th, 1867.

OF THE

# BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Town of Weston in account with Edwin Hobbs, Isaac Coburn and Alonzo S. Fiske, Committee for the Enlargement of the Town House, and erection of Tablets in memory of Fallen Soldiers.

Cash	paid	J. H. Kibbey the amount of contract,	\$2,940	00
66	66	for alteration in stairway and entrance, &c.	188	00
66	66	for stone work in preparing foundation and		
		basement,	162	04
66	66	Thomas W. Silloway,	120	00
66 ,		Charles E. Hall, for marble tablet,		
66		S. S. Woodcock, for plan of the same, .		
66		C. H. Topliff, for frame for tablet, and for		
		services and expenses,	110	00
66	66,	ladder, postage and revenue stamps, ex-		
		pressage, &c	* 4	96
. "	66	Committee, for their services and expenses,	40	
			\$4,120	00
		Manufacture comments		
~ 4		1	# 1400	0.0
Uredi	it by	order on the Treasurer,	\$4120	00
		Respectfully submitted.		
		200poolarij sasamitoti.		

EDWIN HOBBS, ISAAC COBURN, ALONZO S. FISKE,  $\begin{cases} Building \\ Committee \end{cases}$ 

# TREASURER'S REPORT.

THE undersigned, Treasurer of Weston, submits his account of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending this day.

HORACE HEWS.

\$2,110 40

WESTON, MARCH 15, 1867.

Paid School Committee,

### Receipts.

-					
Balance in the Treasury, March 15, 1866,			\$446	67	
Quincy M. F. Insurance Co., dividend,			7	20	
Rent of Town Hall,		٠	20	50	
George W. Cutting, weighing fees,			25		
Joel Upham, Liquor Agent,			39	88	
Received for taxes,					
Burial lots,			6	00	
State of Massachusetts, School Fund, .			110		
" " State Aid, 1864, bal			37		
" " Credits,	•				
" " Corporation tax,	* a	*	1,379		
Waltham Bank, temporary loan,	•	•	7,500		
Horace Hews, Collector, taxes, 1865,					
" " 1866,	• .	•	13,245		
				<del> \$23,409</del>	53

### Schedule of Expenditures.

#### FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

FOR	SUPPORT	OF POO	R.	
Paid Overseers of Poor,				\$710 51

#### FOR REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

District	No.	1—Charles Dunn,	10	٠		305	93		
4.6	46	2-Edward E. Brown,		٠		252	81		
66	66	3—John Carter, .		 ۰		100	00		
66	46	4—Alonzo S. Fiske,			•*	235	00		
44	66	5-Charles A. Warren,	,			244	82		
66	66	6—Samuel F. Clark,				128	00	\$1,266	56

FOR EXTRA REPAIRS ON	ROADS.
William Seaverns, widening road near Starr's bridge	e, \$50 00
Luther Harrington, building culvert near his house Alonzo S. Fiske, repairing bridge near house John Lakin,	e, 25 00
Alonzo S. Fiske, repairing bridge near house	of
John Lakin,	5 00
	\$80 00
FOR BREAKING OUT RO	ADS.
Charles Dunn,	. \$118 49
Edward E. Brown,	. 104 50
John Carter, Alonzo S. Fiske, Charles A. Warren, Samuel F. Clark, Jesse S. Viles,	120 20
Charles A. Warren	133 40
Samuel F. Clark.	. 127 02
Jesse S. Viles,	6 00
•	<del></del>
FOR ENLARGEMENT OF TOW	N HOUSE.
Paid Building Committee, for enlargement of Tov	n
House, and tablet in memory of fallen soldiers,	\$4,120 00
FOR STATE AND COUNTY	TAXES.
State Tax	. \$3.270 00
State Tax,	. \$3,270 00 . 866 68
	\$4,136 68
LOANS AND INTERES	г.
	\$4,000,00
Waltham Bank, loan,	963 17
	\$4,963 17
	,
FOR SERVICES OF TOWN OF	FFICERS.
C. H. Topliff, superintending schools, 2 years,	. \$60 00
Edwin Hobbs. "	25 00
Edwin Hobbs, " "	25 00
Alonzo S. Fiske, Assessor,	. 75 00
Edwin Hobbs, "	. 30 00
Nahum Smith, "	. 30 00
Alonzo S. Fiske, Selectman,	40 00
Increase Leadbetter, "	25 00
Tool Unham Liquor Agent	80 00
John Cohurn Librarian	60 00
George W. Cutting, Jr., Town Clerk.	. 52 65
Alonzo S. Fiske, Assessor, Edwin Hobbs, " Nahum Smith, " Alonzo S. Fiske, Selectman, . Increase Leadbetter, " Benjamin F. Cutter, " Joel Upham, Liquor Agent, . John Coburn, Librarian, . George W. Cutting, Jr., Town Clerk, . Horace Hews, Treasurer and Collector, .	. 175 00

\$652 65

### FOR INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

	110.	
School Committee,	\$158 56	
J. M. Hewes, printing Town Reports,	74 10	
" " printing School Committee's rules	17 00	
" printing School Committee's rules, C. H. Topliff, painting flagstaff,	9 64	
" toma for soboly and library		
" items for schools and library,	22 72	
School Committee, care of rooms and sundry items,	24 00	
Quincy M. F. Ins. Co., insurance on Town House,	98 00	
J. W. Brown, license of Liquor Agency,	25 00	,
Stone monuments and erecting same,	21 60	
Theodore Jones, attending funeral of William Fiske,	5 00	
J. Ryan, rebuilding chimney in school-house No. 3,	23 88	
Edwin Hobbs, repairs on school house and pump, .	14 25	
	60 00	
Abigail Jones, room and lights,	3 00	
Rufus Stickney, stove pipe and items for Town Hall,	23 27	
C. H. Topliff, fuel and items for schools,	132 05	
R. J. French, cutting wood for Town Hall,	5 50	,
Alonzo S. Fiske, wood for Town Hall,	10 68	
Union Glass Co., lamps for Town Hall,	17 70	
Oliver N. Kenney, repairing settees,	12 18	
Eliza Casey, cleaning Town Hall and Library, .	6 40	
Horace Hews, labor at Town House,	14 65	
FD CT : 1	8 50	
Town of Lincoln, tax,	7 25	
H. A. Davis, adjusting and sealing standard,	1 20	
Library Committee, shelves for library and other		
items,	44 17	
Library Committee, fitting up library,	202 70	
Abijah Gregory, labor in library,	12 22	
F. A. Robinson, labor in library and items, as per bill,	30 05	
Rufus Stickney, stove for library " "	42 45	
John Coburn, items for library, as per bill,	8 75	
School Committee, for High School room,	480 35	
Charles A. Warren, grading around school-house		
No. 5,	17 12	
Edward E. Brown, wood for Town House,	8 06	
	7 00	
Edwin Hobbs, clock for school-house No. 1;		
Daniel Smith, guideboards, and steps for Town Hall,	8 00	
Theodore Jones, returning deaths,	1 50	
Expense of Library Committee,	3 00	
E. L. Cutting, care of Town Hall,	34 35	
Horace Hews, stamps, stationery and items, as per bill,	7 10	
Stephen C. Bent, labor in Library,	6 25	
Daniel Smith, labor in school-room,	1 25	
Thomas B. Jones, painting guideboards and items,		
as per bill,	13 63	
George W. Cutting & Son, items, as per bill,	74 49	
Eli C. Bemis, building wall and grading around	• 7 70	
school house No 2	10 00	
school-house No. 3,	10 00	
Alonzo S. Fiske, expense in adjusting State Aid	10.00	
account,	16 80	
Alonzo S. Fiske, stamps, stationery and expressing,	12 32	
George W. Cutting, ringing bell,	1 50	

Amour Traders and Mechanics Fire Town House while making Simeon W. Brown, collector School Committee, care of re	Ins. g repa	Co., i irs, emen	nsur t of t	ance	on ·	15 3 36	50 32 75	\$1,893	56
FOR	BUR	IAL	GRO	CUUC	DS.				
Burial Ground Committee,	٠	٠	•	•	•	•	•	\$60	60
. <b>F</b>	OR S	STAT	E A	AID.					
Paid Selectmen's orders for bursed by the State, .	State	Aid,	to	be rei	im-			\$1,503	50
F	OR I	DISC	oui	NTS.					
Discount on taxes paid Oct.	1st.	and 1	orior	to t	hat				
date,						\$643	15		
inclusive,	ш Ос •	•	10 €	• ·		59		\$702	55
FC	R A	R A TTI	EME	ENTS					
				214 1 6	7.	фa	00		
Abatement of taxes, 1864, " " 1865, " " 1866,	•	•		•		\$2 14			
" " 1866,	•	•	٠	•	•	70	60	<b>₩</b> 0¢	CO
							_	\$86	60
Amount of payments, Balance in the Treasury,	•	•	•	•	\$	22,979 430	37		
Balance in the Treasury,	•	•	•	•	-	430	10	\$23,409	53
								,	
TAX	ES U	INCO	LLI	ECTI	ED.				
Taxes for 1865,						$\begin{array}{c} 74 \\ 671 \end{array}$	17		
" " 1866,	•	•	٠	٠	•			\$745	46
								*	
SCHED	ULE	OF '	TOV	VN I	DEB	T.			
Bonds of the town,		•*			. :	\$8,450	00		
Bonds of the town, Weston Town Library,	•		•	•	•	1,300			
Estate of A. H. Fiske, Theodore Jones, Guardian,	•				•	3,500 1,000			
Lewis Jones, Executor,				•	a 7				
Lewis Jones, Executor, Waltham Bank, temporary l Temporary Loan, balance,	oan,	• .	•	•	• `	3,500	00		
Temporary Loan, balance,	•	•		•	•	200	-00	\$18,700	00
								,	

#### PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN.

Town House Six School-h Almshouse at Personal proj Weston Tow	ouses, nd sixt perty,	ty-ei	ght a	acres	of la	nd,	•	•	1,885 2,500	00 00 00	00
Real Estate, Personal Esta	ate,							TOW \$558 444	,516 00 ,417 00	\$1,002,933	00
Amount of ta	xes as	sesse	ed by	y the	towr				raxes	\$13,876	64
C	77		1 2		43						~~

#### AUDITORS' REPORT.

We, the subscribers, Selectmen of Weston, have examined the foregoing account, and find the same well vouched and correctly cast.

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWARD COBURN, BENJAMIN F. CUTTER,

Selectmen
of
Weston.

1,379 28

Weston, March 15, 1867.

Corporation Tax, assessed by the State,

OF

# LIBRARY TREASURER.

HORACE HEWS in account with the WESTON TOWN LIBRARY.

DR.

Appropriation of town for Library, 60 00  Town of Weston, interest on Library Fund, 78 00  Received of Librarian, fines,	3
Cr.	
Paid Nichols & Noyes, for books, . \$125 67	
Balance in Treasury,	3

#### LIBRARY FUND.

Town	of	Weston,	66	Merriam Fund,"	1.	\$1,000	00		
66	66	66	66	Fiske Fund,"	•	. 300	00		
		•				-		\$1,300	00

ON

## BURIAL GROUNDS.

The Committee on Burial Grounds present their Annual Report.

The sum of \$75.00 was appropriated by the town for the care and improvement of the several burial grounds in town. The greater portion of this sum has been expended by us in accordance with the design of the appropriation, an account of which is herewith submitted. The improvement of lots by different individuals in town, together with the improvements which we have been able to make with the means placed at our disposal, have added greatly to the beauty of the grounds. We would suggest that the sum of \$50.00 be appropriated this year, which, with the unexpended balance of last year, will be a sufficient sum for all the purposes contemplated.

We cannot close this report without suggesting what we deem an important matter for the consideration of the town. It is well known that most of the desirable lots in the centre yard have been already taken up. We have no reason to expect but that the demand for new lots will be as great in future years as it has been in years past. How is this demand to be supplied? Land lying contiguous to the burial ground, and owned by Mr. Charles Jones, can now be had for a reasonable compensation; your Committee be-

lieve that it would be a great oversight, on the part of the town, to allow this land to pass into other hands, and thus be placed beyond their reach.

We would, therefore, recommend that a Committee be chosen by the town to take this subject into consideration, and report at some future town meeting.

The appropriation for Burial Grounds was \$75.00. We have paid for labor and materials, as follows:—

To F. Jennison and others, for labor,		\$40	30		
For stone steps, and stone work,	• •	7	00		
" horse hire,			50		
" blacksmith's work,		2	65		
" trees, plants, flowers, shrubs, &c.	 	10	<b>1</b> 5		
				\$60	60

EDWIN HOBBS,
C. H. TOPLIFF,
ISAAC COBURN,

Burial
Ground
Committee.

OF

# THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

To the Citizens of Weston:-

In presenting our Report for the past year, we are happy to say that it has been one of general prosperity to the several schools. At the annual meeting of the town in April last, the sum of \$2,000 was granted for the payment of the several teachers, leaving the fuel and care of school-rooms to be paid out of the incidental expenses of the town. We hope the town will pursue this course in future years. The advantages arising are many, one of which is, that it enables the Committee to contract with the teachers for a certain length of time without having it made uncertain how long the term may continue, as the price of fuel may vary, or an additional quantity be required. costs the town no more in the end, and prevents many inconveniences which are likely to occur. This arrangement has enabled the Committee to hire a competent male teacher for the High School, and to slightly advance the wages of the old teachers, in order to meet the higher price of board demanded at the present time.

In order to meet what seems to be the absolute requirements of the year to come, we would recommend that the sum of \$2.200 be granted for the payment of teachers' salaries in the High and District schools.

 This sum, which was placed at our disposal, has been expended for schools, as follows:—

Paid to Miss A. S. Almy, balance of her salary, . \$14 00
" " Hattie A. Eager, School No. 1, . 133 38
" " Helen M. Brooks, " " 1, . 87 50
" " Hannah M. Jones, " " 2, . 75 00
" " Emma M. Hews, " " 2, . 143 44
" " S. Lizzie Eaton, " " 3, . 210 10
" " Mary O. Brooks, " 4, . 237 50
" " Maria F. Williams, " " 5, . 200 00
" " Ellen M. Hoar, " 6, . 237 50
Paid John H. Larry, (Teacher of High School,) part
of salary,
We have paid for fuel,
Care of rooms and making fires,
The whole number of scholars connected with our
schools, is,
Daily average attendance, each term, 232
Number of scholars under five years of age, 5
Number over fifteen years of age, 40
Number of persons between five and fifteen years of
age, May 1st, 1866,

The following scholars have been perfect in attendance through the year:—

Freddie Hagar,	School		
Thomas Coburn,	66 ,	66	4.
Arthur Coburn,	66	66	4.
Willie Stone,	66		4.
Charles W. Harrington,	. 66	66	6.
Mattie A. R. Harrington,	"	. 66	6.
Jessie I. Harrington,	66	46	6.
Amia L. Pollock,	66 :	66	6.

The whole number of tardy marks are less than last year, and we are confident that with a little more care, on the part of scholers and parents, they can be reduced to a much lower figure. The scholar who is habitually tardy at school, will be likely to be tardy every where.

#### School No. 1. East Centre District.

At the time of making our last report, we referred to this school as having enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity under the care of one teacher for a period of eight years. The declining health of Miss Weston admonished her to take a season of rest, in the hope of recruiting her exhausted energies; but her disease continued to make sure and certain progress through the summer, and she lingered till the autumn months, when she exchanged a life of toil and care on earth, for one of peaceful rest above. She had devoted more than twelve years of her life to teaching in the different schools in town. Her place was supplied by Miss Hattie A. Eager, who entered the school without any previous experience in teaching. It was not to be expected where scholars had been so long connected with a popular teacher, that any one could take her place and be equally successful, until sufficient time had been given to become better acquainted; consequently, the first term of the school was not so successful as might have been desired. But during the Fall Term, after teacher and scholars became more fully acquainted with each other, the school again enjoyed its usual prosperity, and it was with much regret that the Committee learned the intention of Miss Eager to resign her place at the end of the Fall Term. She had secured the affections of her pupils, and we believe the entire confidence of the parents. Miss Helen M. Brooks was engaged to supply her place. Miss Brooks entered the school having had the advantage of some years' experience in teaching. The school has been prosperous during the term, and the closing examination indicated much care and labor on the part of teacher and scholars. Quite a large number in this school can sing well, and we hope a little more attention will be given to this exercise.

#### The statistics of the schools are as follows:

Whole number of scholars,	,				43
Daily average attendance, each	term,				38
Percentage of attendance,			•,	•,	.89
Tardy marks,				 •	55
Average per term not tardy,	• 1	•	. •	• • •	26
" absent,					3

#### School No. 2. West Centre District.

This school, as well as No. 1, has been subject to a change of teachers during the past year. The first term was under the care of Miss Hannah M. Jones, whose services in this school have covered a period of nearly ten years. During all this period of continued service, there has been an entire harmony in the district, and steady and commendable progress in the school. Under her just administration the pupils have always been taught to do right, not from fear of punishment merely, but were made to feel there were higher motives prompting them to right actions. Many of her pupils, who have passed from her school-room, still remember her kind words and valuable instructions. Domestic affliction and somewhat exhausted energies, led her to feel it to be duty to resign her place at the end of the Summer Term. A feeling of deep regret pervaded the district at the loss of her valuable services, and a more substantial token than words could express, was given her by parents and scholars, as a slight appreciation of her long and faithful services.

The Fall and Winter Terms have been under the care of Miss Emma M. Hews, who is a graduate of the Normal School in Framingham. Miss Hews entered upon her duties with the same obstacles in the way of complete success which have been referred to in school No. 1, but we are happy to say that she has labored with untiring industry and perseverance, and with very happy results. The order of the school has been satisfactory, and its progress has been marked and steady. Much pains have been taken with the classes in reading, and the results could be clearly seen at the closing examination. We were pleased with the appearance

of all the classes, as affording good evidence of correct training. We regard Miss Hews as well qualified for her duties, and needing only experience, in order to give her high rank as a teacher.

#### School No. 3. North West District.

This school has been under the care of Miss S. Lizzie Eaton throughout the year. We are happy to say that the year has been a prosperous one to the school. Miss Eaton entered upon her duties without any experience in teaching; but by a happy faculty of obtaining the good will of her pupils, she has been successful in securing excellent order in the school-room, as well as diligence in the study of the lessons. There has been a marked change in the character of this school, both as regards the conduct and deportment of the scholars, and the progress which they have made in their studies. During the visits of the Committee in school through the year, as well as at the closing examination, they have always found the order good, and the lessons well learned. We would suggest that more attention be given to the classes in reading in the future,—the scholars read quite readily, and pronounce the words correctly, but fail in some of the prominent things which are essential to make good readers. A little care, on the part of the teacher, we think will remove this defect.

#### School No. 4. North East District.

This school has been under the care of the same teacher as last year,—Miss Mary O. Brooks,—and numbers nearly fifty scholars. Could a part of the scholars be placed in some of the other schools, which number only twenty, it would be a benefit to both. The school being large, renders the labors of the teacher very arduous, and requires vigilant application to her duties during all the hours devoted to study. Miss Brooks is well fitted for her situation, and we are satisfied that she is discharging her duties in the school-room in a faithful and judicious manner. The Committee were pleased with the school at the closing examination. There was good evidence of careful study and thorough training.

We cannot close our report of this school, however, without referring to some complaints which have been made in respect to the conduct of some of the scholars, while out of school, towards travellers on the public road, and towards persons living near the school-house. We are confident, however, that a little care, on the part of the teacher, with the judicious co-operation of parents, will prevent a recurrence of these complaints.

#### School No. 5. South East District.

This school has been under the care of Miss Maria F. Williams through the year. Miss Williams had just graduated from the Normal School in Framingham, when her services were secured for this school. She made herself at once familiar with her duties in the school-room, and throughout the year gave unmistakable evidence that she had not mistaken her calling. The school was

always in good order, the room neat, and teacher and scholars presented happy faces. Some excellent drawings were found upon the blackboards on the day of the closing examination. We would not be understood as discouraging the practice of drawing when we say that we think it absorbed more of the time of the scholars than it should have done. We would have some time set apart for this work; but when scholars are permitted to go to the board for the purpose of drawing,—" after they have learned their lessons,"—there is a strong temptation to hurry over important studies, and have them quite imperfectly learned, in their eagerness to enjoy this exercise. It seemed to us that some of the failures to answer questions in some of the important branches on the day of examination might have been owing to this practice. This school closed two weeks before the others in town, on account of the engagement of the teacher in another place.

#### School No. 6. South West District.

This school is still under the care of Miss Ellen M. Hoar, who for the past six years has devoted herself with untiring industry to the best interests of the school. We are happy to say that the progress of the school has been fully equal to that in past years. The school has been steadily advancing, and now takes high rank among the other schools in town. We congratulate the district in having so long enjoyed the services of a diligent and faithful teacher, and in having a good and progressive school. The parents and friends in this district have always manifested a commendable interest, which has had no small share in making the school what it is. The closing examination was creditable alike to teacher and scholars.

#### 

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

The High School has been somewhat interrupted in its progress the past year by the changes which have been made in the Town House. The Summer Term was shortened two or three weeks, and the commencement of the Fall Term was delayed five or six weeks beyond the 1st of September, for the reason that the room was not ready for occupancy. At the expiration of the Summer Term, Miss Almy having declined a re-engagement, we were happy in securing the services of Mr. Larry, and, in some of the recitations, aid from Mrs. Larry. In addition to his literary qualifications for his profession, Mr. Larry has had some experience in teaching, and ranked high as an elocutionist and public reader.

There has been no thorough examination of the several classes since he took charge of the school. But from the occasional visits and the ordinary daily recitations to which we have listened, we have formed a very favorable opinion of the school, and shall be greatly disappointed if the examination, which is to occur the 5th of April ensuing, does not confirm our favorable judgment, and meet the high expectations of all interested.

The school has been larger than usual, and is too large and varied in its attainments for a single teacher. To employ regularly an assistant, would involve increased expenses, to prevent which and to make the teacher's services more valuable to the class of scholars, for whose benefit he is especially provided, we are prepared to offer to the consideration of the town and our successors in office, a recommendation which many with whom we have counselled have seemed surprised that we have not insisted on in former reports, viz.: that in future, admission to the High

School shall be based upon examination. Hitherto, the rule has been to admit scholars when they reached the age of thirteen years, whatever might be their qualifications. When the standard of age was adopted by vote of the town, on the recommendation of the School Committee, we were not ignorant of the forcible objections to be urged against that standard. But then we believed, and still believe, it was best for the time and circumstances; now we are as fully convinced that the change should be made, and every scholar should enter by examination.

The presence of a few, who may have passed the age of thirteen years, but who are unfitted to enter classes appropriate to the school, necessitates the multiplication of studies and the division of the teacher's time, while, if detained in the district schools, they would find classes already formed. And it would serve as a stimulant to study, on the part of indolent scholars, to feel that they must reach a certain point in their studies before they could enter the High School.

EDWIN HOBBS, CALVIN H. TOPLIFF, School Committee.

OF

# THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

In submitting our Annual Report the Committee are happy to say that the pressing want, which has been the burden of many preceding reports, has, by the generous action of the town, been fully met. A room has been provided sufficiently ample, not only for the present use, but for the prospective requirements of the library. It will be ten years next fall since the library was opened to the free use of all the inhabitants of the town. It required but a slight outlay to fit up the room which has hitherto been used, and a small annual appropriation for current expenses and for the purchase of new books, is all the demand which the library has made upon the town Treasury till the present year. If, therefore, it should seem to some that the town has expended a large sum in the alteration and enlargement of the Town House, to provide, among other things, for the better accommodation of the library, they are to remember that it is the first sum, of any considerable amount, which the library has called for, and that it was not asked till the library had received generous benefactions from private individuals, and had proved itself, by years of successful operation, worthy of the support it asked.

It has had from the commencement a circulation, annually, of about 5,600 volumes, and its books have gone into almost every family in town. We are exceedingly gratified to know that the citizens heartily approve of the action of the town in providing a room for the library, by additional funds from a social gathering and fair, amounting to \$400, for carpeting and furnishing the room. We have now a place to which we can take our visiting friends with a commendable feeling of pride, to show them in what estimation a Free Library is held by the people of Weston, and what provision has been made for securing the largest gain from this rich source of enjoyment and improvement.

Some of the books which have been stored away for the want of room, are now catalogued and ready for use; others will be placed upon the shelves as soon as the librarian has time to arrange them.

A new catalogue will be required at no distant day. The present method of publishing the yearly additions in the Town Reports is open to serious objections, but we are not able to recommend a better course at present.

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